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Dahlia

Miss Emily H.

KIT GARDEN
Springfield
Massachusetts
1930

Kit Garden Dahlias

*Emilie H. Kilson 9 Irvington Street
Springfield, Massachusetts*

Order Early—Your selection of varieties will be reserved upon receipt of your order and shipment made about May 1st, unless otherwise requested.

Terms—Remittance with order, or in advance of shipment.

Our Stock is carefully selected and packed to reach you in good growing condition, and is true to name. Any error reported to us will be cheerfully adjusted

Member of
American Dahlia Society
Dahlia Society of New England



Kit Garden
Dahlias

Growing the Dahlia



LOCATION

Give dahlias a place by themselves. Avoid shade if possible for it delays the blooming period. Space at least three feet apart. Straight rows are the most convenient for cultivating.

PLANTING

Plant six inches deep, tuber laid flat with sprout pointing up. Cover tuber for half the depth of the hole, firm the soil but do not pack it hard. Place a card board cuff so that the plant will come up inside. Press the cuff 2" into the soil and let it stand 2" above, to keep out cut-worms. As the plant grows, fill the hole till the ground is level and raise the cuff proportionately. When cutworms are gone, remove cuffs.

FERTILIZER

After the planting is done, broadcast longside the rows, commercial fertilizer 4-6-10 and cultivate into the soil. When blossoms begin to form, broadcast Sheep fertilizer and rake in. Do not use Sheep early in the season. It is of more value as a tonic when buds are forming.

CULTIVATING

The one item of more importance than all else upon which the dahlia depends for its well-being, is cultivation. Our practice at Kit Garden is to keep a dust-mulch constantly on the growing rows.

After a rain as soon as the soil becomes dry enough to work, the cultivators go through the rows breaking up the soil before it has a chance to bake under the Sun's heat. Later it is fined down with the rake.

This system of cultivating starts as soon as the rows are planted. The dust-mulch keeps the moisture in the under-soil and the air has a chance to work down into it and keep it sweet and fresh.

PRUNING AND DISBUDDING

The first remark that we hear from visitors at Kit Garden more often than any other is, "What quantities of blossoms and how big they



Picture A

The Picture A above shows cultivated row of young plants.

are.” Then they ask if we feed special fertilizer to get such results. The next thing that catches their attention is that the bushes are short.

Our reply to their questions is that we grow our bushes short by pinching out, and we keep the bushes balanced by repeated pruning; which together with disbudding, gives the quantity and size of bloom. We do not feed special fertilizer for size. Dahlias that grow very large for us do so from their own inherent traits.

The accompanying pictures illustrate our method of handling the plants. When the little plant has grown four or five pairs of leaves the center of the plant is pinched out, that is, topped.

Note arrow in Picture B, before pinching, (see Picture B at bottom of page 5) and (arrow) in Picture C, after pinching. (see Picture C on page 6).

Immediately side shoots start to grow out of the leaf crotches below.

In a short time the plant looks like Picture D (page 7). Arrow points to spot on the plant that corresponds to where it topped as

shown in Picture C. The upright branches, making a beautiful shapely plant are all out of the original four or five pairs of leaves.

These branches come to their terminal cluster of blossom buds and at Kit Garden we disbud each cluster, leaving one bud only of the three, usually the center one.

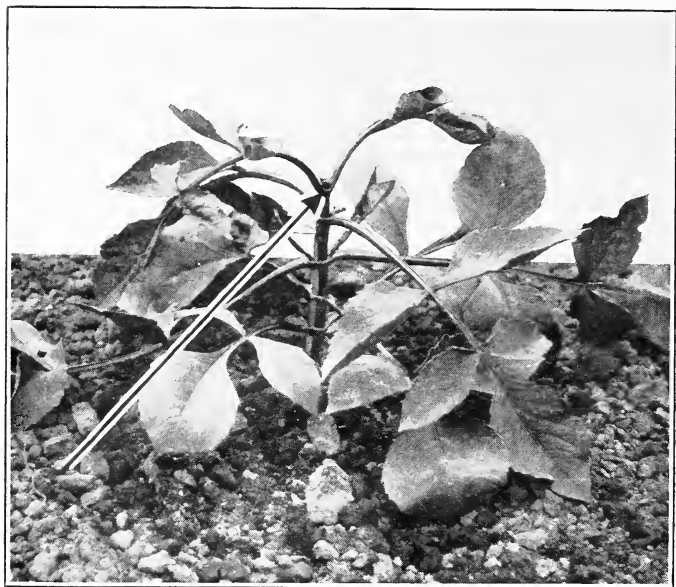
If this disbudding is done when the buds are barely big enough to rub off with the fingers, the stem will heal over and leave no scar and the blossom will grow to maturity on a good stem. If the stem is followed down into the bush and the little shoots pruned out of several leaf crotches it will make a fine long stem to cut with the blossom.

While this blossom is maturing, the side shoots below the pruning will be growing to their terminal buds and will be ready soon to make bloom to succeed the first one cut. This procedure carried out all over the bush, brings a succession of bloom on good stems.

Now aside from the fact that disbudding gives size to the blossoms, there is another point that with us has more weight in the argument



Picture B



Picture C

for disbudding. Note Picture E (page 8), arrow Y shows a bloom-cluster that was left not disbudded to illustrate the point we wish to emphasize.

The large blossom in the picture (arrow Y) is the center one of a cluster of three. The center bud matures first and while it is opening its blossom, the two side buds extend their stems far above the center blossom before they begin to unfold. If the whole cluster is cut when the center blossom is just right, it makes an awkward spray that is not artistic. And the two side buds will not open to any degree of perfection after cutting.

If the center blossom is cut alone so not to sacrifice the other buds, note in the picture how short its stem will be. Such a stem will allow for no artistic arrangement in a vase that is proportionate to the size of the flower.

Suppose one bud is removed leaving two buds to mature, again there will be an uneven development. On the right side of Picture E (arrow Z) is such a two-cluster with one bud about to unfold its color,

and another bud much smaller on a stem that will extend higher before the blossom unfolds.

On the left side of Picture E (arrow X) note the single bud on a long stem that may be cut way down into the bush, with leaves, due to the disbudding. This is the way we like them at Kit Garden.

Another advantage of this method of growing the plants is that it simplifies the matter of staking. If all of one variety are planted in a row, one small stake per variety or row to hold the name tag, is sufficient.



Picture D



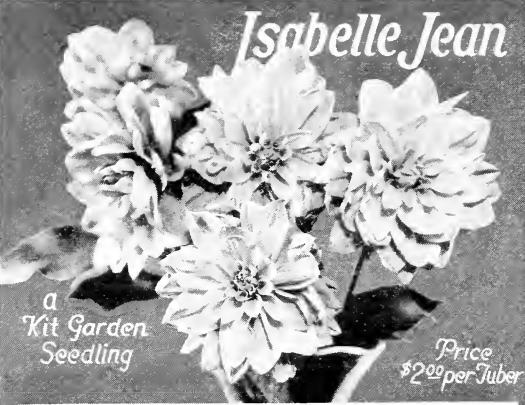
Picture E

We invite your correspondence if there are any points which you wish to ask about. Any helpful hints to meet your particular problem that we can offer are at your service.

Field-grown Tubers



ALICE WHITTIER—H. C.	
Light primrose yellow, outer petals sharply quilled	\$2.50
AMBASSADOR—H. C.	
Soft yellow center, shading to amber pink on outer petals	1.00
AMUN RA—D.	
Copper-orange with reddish center Large bloom	1.00
CALVIN COOLIDGE JR—D.	
Pink, gold edge	2.00
COL. CHAS. E. LINDBERGH—H. C.	
Rose, golden center	5.00
COUNT MANCINI—P.	
Yellow-buff. Opening a yellow which soon becomes overlaid with a flush of thin red giving a buff tone. Thick blossoms with wide petals, profuse bloomer	2.00
EDNA FERBER—H. C.	
Glistening coral shading to gold at base of petals. Ranks high as a prize winner	3.00
ELLINOR VANDERVEER—D.	
Satiny rose-pink. Large	1.00
ELITE GLORY—D.	
Brilliant rich red, immense size. A stunner in the garden and a great exhibition dahlia in "largest bloom" class	2.50
ESTHER R. HOLMES—H. C.	
Orchid-pink. Medium size, free bloomer, good cut flower	1.00
FORT MONMOUTH—H. C.	
Crimson maroon, violet tips	7.50
FORT WASHINGTON—D.	
Maroon	3.00
GRACE SHERMAN—D.	
Light pink, base of petals light orange. Thick blossom. free bloomer	2.00
HARRY MAYER—D.	
Rosy-lavender, reverse deeper, giving two color effect. One of the immense ones held erect on good stem	3.00
HERALD TRIBUNE ELITE—D.	
White	1.50



Isabelle Jean

a
Kit Garden
Seedling

Price
\$2.00 per Tuber

*Here is a Dahlia that is a gem
for cut-flower purpose*

*It proves its worth for
florists' use in window
trim and wedding dec-
oration and also for
cut flowers to visitors
in the garden.*

Because it can be

*cut any time of day
and survive; will last a
week after cutting, - has
a long stem that is wire
stiff yet holds this dainty
four inch blossom with
airy grace.*

*Isabelle Jean has the color found on the
skin of a luscious peach; the cream and pink
with the occasional dash of deeper color*

Kit Garden, 9 Irvington St, Springfield, Mass.

JANE COWL—D.

This magnificent decorative is without doubt the outstanding Dahlia that has been produced in the East since Jersey Beauty.

Color a glistening bronzy buff and old gold blending to a deeper shade toward the center of the flower, reverse of petals a pale flesh color

\$7.50

JERSEY'S BEAUTY—D.

True pink. Medium size

1.00

JERSEY'S EMPRESS—D.

Deep violet

2.00

JERSEY'S IDEAL—D.

Lavender-pink, more lavender than pink

2.50

JERSEY'S MAMMOTH—D.

Golden mahogany. A dahlia that lives up to it's name, a sure winner in "largest bloom" class

2.00

KING TUT—D.	
Rich crimson-burgundy, a large velvety beauty that blends well with all the others except bright red ones	2.00
MABEL THATCHER—D.	
Rich yellow with hint of pink on reverse that gives a warm tone overall	1.00
MARGARET WOODROW WILSON—D.	
Opalescent pink, large, very pale but a beautiful dahlia	1.50
MARION BROOMALL—H. C.	
Pink, white center	2.00
MARMION—D.	
Golden yellow with bronzy suffusion. Immense dahlia, a sure prize winner	2.00
METROPOLITAN—D.	
Crimson, tips white	5.00
MILDRED BROOKS HOOVER—D.	
Ruby red	10.00
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Pure white, medium size	3.00
MRS. I. de VER WARNER—D.	
Deep mauve-pink, one of the best ever produced, should be in every garden	1.00
MRS. ROSE K. DARNELL—D.	
Rose pink	\$3.00
MORDELLA—D.	
Apricot-buff with hint of salmon. A long-petaled, high-centered beauty	1.00
ORCHID—D.	
Lavender with a pink tone	2.00
PAPILLON—H. C.	
Old-rose with golden lights	1.00
POLAR SNOW—D.	
Pure white, medium size, free bloomer	1.00
POP STEWART—D.	
Clear light lavender, large, uniform in formation and color, grand stem, a wonderful dahlia	1.50
PRIDE of STRATFORD—D.	
Orange, red reverse	2.50
RALPH BAUER—H. C.	
Red, tan reverse	5.00

ROBERT SCOTT—D.	
Apricot yellow	2.00
ROBERT TREAT—D.	
Rich American Beauty Rose, of deep velvety color unlike any other dahlia	1.00
ROSE FALLON—D.	
Old gold, another immense one for the “larg- est bloom” class	1.50
SANHICAN BEAUTY—D.	
Pink with orange tone	5.00
SANHICAN MAGNETE—D.	
Amaranth pink, reverse claret	2.00
SEASHELL—D.	
Clear shell-pink, a large one	2.00
WANDA MILLER—D.	
Purple, white tips.	2.00
WHITE EMPRESS—D.	
White	5.00
WINFIELD SLOCOMBE—D.	
Old gold shading to orange center	1.00
WORLD'S BEST WHITE—D.	
Cream white	1.00
THE LEMONADE—D.	
Pale yellow	3.50
ZENIDA—D.	
Brilliant red, medium size cut flower	1.00



POMPOXS

Your choice of colors: **4.50** per doz.; **2.50** per six.




Collections

For those who wish to leave the selection of varities to us, we have arranged collections, priced at \$5; \$8; and \$10. A tuber of ISABELLE JEAN will be included in each collection. These collections will give generous value and pleasing variety.



It is our desire and aim to give a feeling of satisfaction in every sale.



*Kil Garden
Dahlia Exhibit
Eastern States Exposition
September, 1928
Springfield, Massachusetts*

*You are cordially invited to visit Kit
Garden, located at Crescent
Lake,—on the Shaker Road,—
two and a half miles south of
East Longmeadow, Mass.*

